

# Fact Sheet

## *Child Support Enforcement*

***Child Support Enforcement is a joint state, county, and federal partnership. Its purpose is to secure financial support from legally responsible parents so that families and children receive that support, and so that the demand on public treasuries is reduced.***

***Custody and visitation are not part of the child support enforcement program.***

### ***The Child Support Enforcement***

#### ***Division works with two types of cases:***

- **IV-D cases** which stem from referrals from public assistance programs (TANF, foster care and Medical Assistance) or from either custodial or noncustodial parents applying for IV-D services.
- **NonIV-D cases** which stem from court orders where there is no application or referral to the IV-D program or where people choose to close their IV-D case.

### ***Services Provided:***

***By the eight Regional Child Support Enforcement Units (county entities) through cooperative agreement:***

- **IV-D cases:** Paternity establishment, establishment and enforcement (including issuing income withholding orders) of child support and medical support orders, review and adjustment of court orders, local locate when customers need to be found, and customer services.
- **NonIV-D cases:** None

### ***By the Clerks of Court:***

- **IV-D and NonIV-D cases:** Initiate contempt proceedings, enter civil file information into the automated system, and customer services.

### ***By the Child Support Enforcement Division:***

- **IV-D Cases:** Manage a number of programs including Federal and State Tax Intercept, State Parent Locate Service, Credit Bureau Reporting, Financial Institution Data Match, Passport Denial, State Directory of New Hires, Central Registry, and Federal Case Registry. Also provide customer services and centralized receipting and distribution of payments.
- **NonIV-D cases:** Centralized receipting and distribution of payments, issuing income withholding orders, and customer services.

### ***The court order:***

- Is issued by the district court. District court judges or judicial referees may conduct hearings.
- Establishes medical support and the amount of child support due based upon the child support guidelines and the unique fact situations of each case.
- May be amended at the request of either party either through private legal counsel or pro se (self representation).
- Will be reviewed, on IV-D cases, by RCSEUs, generally no more frequently than 35 months since the order was entered or last reviewed.
- Is enforced by the courts. Requests for enforcement may come from Clerks of Court, private attorneys, either party or, in IV-D cases, the RCSEUs.
- Is also enforced, in IV-D cases, by the Child Support Enforcement Division and the RCSEUs through a variety of administrative actions.
- An **'ability to pay' order** may be issued out of a contempt proceeding. The court, as part of that proceeding, may determine that the noncustodial parent is unable to pay the full amount of ordered child support but has the ability to pay a lesser amount. This order does not modify the child support obligation, only what must be paid now. The difference becomes an **arrearage** that must still be paid.

### ***Contacts/Information:***

Web site: <http://www.state.nd.us/humanservices> (Human Services can also be accessed through [www.discovernd.com](http://www.discovernd.com))

#### **Customer Service:**

Email: [socscs@state.nd.us](mailto:socscs@state.nd.us) Ph: 800.755.8530  
local: 328.3582

#### **New Hire Reporting:**

Email: [sohire@state.nd.us](mailto:sohire@state.nd.us) Fax: 701.328.5497

#### **State Disbursement Unit:**

Email: [sosdu@state.nd.us](mailto:sosdu@state.nd.us) Ph: 800.231.4255

#### **Mike Schwindt, Director**

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